Witness Called 'Stunt' by Ford

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1978

An announcement by James Earl Ray's attorney that a purported witness can prove Ray did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been labeled a "stunt" by Rep. Harold Ford, D-Memphis.

Ford, a member of the House Assassinations Committee, said claims that Mark Lane and Memphis attorney Duncan Ragsdale had located a witness to the April 4, 1968, slaying are "part of a political stunt the two are playing."

Ragsdale is Ford's Republican opponent in Tuesday's general election.

According to Lane, the witness was in the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel at the time King was shot and saw someone running away from the rooming house across the street.

Lane and Ragsdale said they were unable to produce the alleged witness, whom they identified as Solomon Jones Jr., because he is in the Shelby County jail awaiting transfer to the state prison in Nashville.